

October 21, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors; CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction I am writing to support the re-nomination of Robert Bocher to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. Bob has served on the board for the past year and has been a strong advocate for libraries.

Bob has been providing comprehensive E-rate support for our state's schools and libraries since the program's inception. In addition to his detailed knowledge of the program, the department has relied on Bob to provide a more holistic view of the program as it has undergone various changes over the years, including the recent E-rate modernization process. (Our department filed four comments with the Commission on the modernization process, all drafted by Bob.)

The American Library Association's letter supporting Bob's re-nomination articulates his qualifications to serve on the Board and I will not repeat all of them here. But I do want to highlight the following:

- WiscNet, our research and education network, provides Internet access to most libraries and schools in the state and Bob served on the WiscNet board from 2000–2012.
- BadgerNet is our state broadband network and Bob has served on the BadgerNet Advisory Council since its inception in 2005. (Each year Bob assists our state network office in filing a large, statewide E-rate application for over 750 libraries and schools on the BadgerNet network.)
- In 2014 Bob assisted our state network office in implementing a statewide library fiber project. As a result of this project we went from just 15% of our public libraries with fiber to over 90% with fiber.

Considering Bob's comprehensive knowledge of the E-rate program and his strong advocacy for libraries and schools I respectfully request his re-appointment to the USAC Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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